

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

The following information was extracted from a section of the Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV) clandestine publication, Cuadernos de Educacion, devoted to comments regarding the Venezuelan opposition parties and the Army. The publication, dated February 1954, issue No. 12, was prepared by Pompeo MARQUEZ (aka Santos YORME), secretary-general of PCV.

Committee of Independent Electoral Political Organization (COPEI)

The COPEI party is the group that cowardly accepts the arbitrary decisions of the present dictatorship. After the arrests of the National Directorate of COPEI, this party almost disappeared from the political life of the country. At present it merely maintains a centralized local office.

COPEI interests coincide with the basic policies of the prevailing dictatorial regime. It cannot be one of the important members of the opposition force, because it is an influential force in the National Assembly of Catholic Schools, which in turn is an advisory group of the present government. This Catholic element is primarily concerned with obtaining support from the government in implementing its educational and Social Christian program. Therefore, it is believed that COPEI would be the last group to join a single bloc in opposition to the present regime.

Democratic Republican (URD)

At present URD does not exist in an organized fashion. Nevertheless, it represents a political trend which deserves consideration in the overall plan of establishing a single bloc against the decisions reached at the Tenth Inter-American Conference.

It is vital for us to convince the members of URD of the need for united action during the Conference. This will indicate that the Venezuelans are determined to get political guarantees. At the same time, it will manifest the tremendous hatred which exists for the present dictatorship in Venezuela.

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Democratic Action (AD)

The position of AD merits close study. Only if we unite with AD can we have some measure of success in our demands for political amnesty, political guarantees, freedom of the press, freedom from persecution, and the return of political exiles.

AD propaganda relative to the Tenth-Inter-American Conference has circulated outside of Venezuela. Ostensibly, its organizational strength within the country has been considerably weakened.

In a recent article prepared by Romulo BETANCOURT and published in Cuadernos Americanos, BETANCOURT reduced the problems of the Tenth Inter-American Conference solely to that of dictatorships and their discredit to the Organization of American States. No consideration was given to the fact that the delegates of this organization are not representing the wishes of the Latin American people. Furthermore, BETANCOURT, in this article, gives lip service to collective Venezuelan action in solving the problems of Venezuela.

While it is not our purpose to be critical, it is unfortunate that such statements made by BETANCOURT are generally not supported by deeds. In actual practice the leaders of AD are not in favor of united action in the labor movement. They have supported an anti-unitarian policy. Moreover, they have not encouraged collaboration in the struggle against foreign capital, the Ministry of Labor, and the Independent Labor Movement (MSI). Unified action has also been lacking in the fight against arrests, persecutions, deportations, and censorship of the press. So far as AD collaboration with other parties in the field of political action is concerned, this was practically non-existent in the past. Only after a long period of time was PCV able to establish political liaison with the National Executive Committee of AD. PCV has made every effort to convince the leaders of AD that any contact or liaison between the two parties would help to contribute toward eventual united action in fields of mutual interest. However, only a unity which stems from a sincere and friendly relationship directed against dictatorship and imperialism will have a strong and lasting quality.

It is the duty of PCV and its militant members to study each problem separately in order to devise ways and means of collaborating with the directors and members of AD. This will enable PCV to establish a united front in those matters which concern both parties, such as the stand on political amnesty, opposition to the decisions reached by the Tenth Inter-American Conference, and the eventual revolt of the masses against the PEREZ Jimenez dictatorship.

AD cannot hope to obtain amnesty for political prisoners by itself. This can be realized only by a broad segment of the masses, including laborers and the military group, working together in a united front. PCV calls upon the National Executive Committee of AD to resolve existing differences with it and to establish agreements on specific points of action for the purpose of giving impetus to the National Resistance Front, the only organization capable of overthrowing the dictatorship.

VENEZUELAN ARMY

The military organization continues to be purged from day to day. Many officers and soldiers are being arrested, tortured, demoted, transferred to other duties, or expelled from the Army. It is imperative that this group be won over to the cause against the dictatorship. There must be established in this country a regime which will offer political guarantees to all individuals. It is important that the members of the Army be persuaded to join the opposition against the decisions of the Tenth Inter-American Conference, eliminate Yankee imperialism, and effect the ouster of the U.S. Military Mission in Venezuela.

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